



A World of Knowledge

**MAIN LIBRARY
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
115 West C Street
Newton, NC 28658**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Library to host mill village scholar

Catawba County Library System will host an outstanding scholar on the labor movement and life in North Carolina's textile mill villages at two appearances next month.



Dr. Roxanne Newton of Mitchell Community College will present "The Fabric of Hope and Resistance: North Carolina Women on Strike" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at the Main Library in Newton. Her appearance is sponsored by the Friends of Catawba County Library.

Dr. Newton will also appear at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 30 at the Southwest Branch Library to share her knowledge of area labor unrest at the start of the Great Depression. That talk is entitled: "Blood on the Cloth: Ella Mae Wiggins and the 1929 Gastonia Strike."

The presentations support the BIG Read literacy project for 2008: *The Bridge* by Doug Marlette, a novel that focuses on the General Textile Strike of 1934 in North Carolina.

Newton, the daughter and granddaughter of mill workers, grew up in a small North Carolina textile town. She is director of the Humanities and Fine Arts Division at Mitchell Community College, Statesville, where she also teaches English, women's studies and humanities.

She earned a doctoral degree in educational foundations and cultural studies and a graduate certificate in women's and gender studies from UNC Greensboro. The recipient of a number of academic and teaching awards, she has developed interdisciplinary courses including "American Women's Studies," "Working Lives: Multicultural Perspectives," and "The Immigrant Experience in America."

Newton's appearance is arranged through a grant from the N.C. Humanities Council which enables vital conversations that nurture the cultures and heritage of North Carolina.

For more information about The BIG Read project, log on to <http://www.thebigread.net> or call Lynne Bolick Reed at the Main Library in Newton, 465-8292.



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